

Let's Talk Agriculture

4709 - 44 Avenue, Provincial Building, Stony Plain AB T7Z 1N4

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**Alberta Agriculture, Food and
Rural Development**

Just to update on some of the changes the Stony Plain District Agriculture Office has endured since our last newsletter...

After many years as a loans officer with AFSC,

Orest Malysh is trading in his pen for a set of golf clubs to kick off his **retirement**. We wish Orest all the best and hope he enjoys his retirement! With Orest leaving, we would like to welcome **Barry Robertson**, an AFSC loans



officer for the Athabasca region, who will be covering Orest's territory until a permanent position has been filled. **Julie Balascak** has also been missed since she left Alberta Agriculture to pursue other interests.

In her place, **Amber Kluthe** has joined our team to provide support and assistance to the AAFRD Specialists and the AFSC Loans Officers, and also help inform clients of all the programs and services offered by these organizations.

Feel free to stop by the office to meet some of the new faces as well as some of the more familiar ones! We are constantly receiving new and updated information in the agriculture industry and would like to pass this information along to you! If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please contact our **Stony Plain District Office**.

**Water Act Registration - Application packages available from
Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development or Alberta
Environment on Registration for Traditional Agriculture Users**

Stony Plain District Office

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Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development

*Trevor Kloeck - Cereal & Oilseed
Specialist*

*Sharon Homeniuk - Rural Develop-
ment Specialist - Business*

*Amber Kluthe - Client Service
Representative*

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Bill Tchir - Lending Division

Barry Robertson - Lending Division

Bette Strass - Insurance Division

Dianne Kyle - Insurance Division

Farm Credit Corporation

Glen Svenungard - Account Manager

Bev Badry - Office Assistant

Shylo Wood - Secretary/Receptionist



New Publications &
Multi-Media Resources

- **Ag-Venture Factsheets** provide an objective overview of the key management issues associated with a new enterprise. *Echinacea, Pasture Poultry & Hemp* are three new topics available. Ask for related series of *free* factsheets such as **Ag-Alternatives, Ag-Profits, Ag-Strategies** and **Market Research** to help you with your diversification decisions.
- One of the many new **Agri-Facts Factsheets** is "Drought Proofing Farm Water Supplies" Agdex #716(A01)
- New edition of "**Weeds of the Prairies**" priced publication (\$20 + gst)
- NEW! CD-Roms for sale: **Insect ID Program** (\$30+gst), **Herb & Spice Production & Planning** (\$25+gst)
- Our office has an **Internet Kiosk** available for the public – so come on in and try it!
- Please call us if you would like to post pasture for rent or feed for sale on our "**Roping the Web**" website!

Contact our office for more info on...

Water Pumping Program, Registering Fish Culture Licenses, Water Registrations, and upcoming events

Scouting Your Fields

*submitted by Trevor Kloeck
Cereal & Oilseed Specialist*

So far, the 2000 crop year has been a challenging one with low commodity prices, high disease potential and significant spring frost damage. All these factors make it difficult to determine what the bottom line will be once the dust settles in the fall. Therefore, we need to find cost effective ways of maximizing our profit but at the same time identifying and reducing our risk. One of the best and least expensive ways to do this is through crop scouting. Scouting not only allows us to identify pest and disease problems, but also helps us identify weeds, nutrient deficiencies and a host of other issues that may be having short and long-term impacts on our productivity and quality. Often we do not identify problems early enough for our solutions to be effective or properly diagnosed and this paralyzes our ability to get the most out of our land. Remember, the payoff to knowing what is going on in your field can be enormous.

Here are some techniques to consider:

1. Walk your entire field depending on your time constraints either in a W or X pattern and make sure to cover the different growing areas of the field.
2. Try to scout at least three times a year: early before spraying, before heading or flowering, and after heading or flowering as the crop matures. Different pests and symptoms show up at different times of the year so a crop that looks good in spring could be poor by harvest.
3. Know your thresholds for diseases and insects and identify unusual weeds or symptoms.
4. Also look at the plants below the ground and think about how your cropping system may impact yield and quality.
5. Try test strips with different products and fertilizers and watch how they perform. This will help you identify what works in your situation and whether it pays before making a large investment.
6. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The industry is always changing so it can be hard for the best of us to keep up.

Don't forget about our "Ropin' the Web" website!



www.agric.ab.ca

Please Note...

**Alberta Environment
(Alberta Fish and Wildlife)
is now located in the
Environmental Protection Building
(old Nait Westerra Campus, south of town)
at 52322 Golf Course Road
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 2K9
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